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(*e*) whether the Government intend to spread the knowledge of the preparation of inks as a result of the experience gained at the Ink Factory, Madras;

(*f*) whether any are given practical instruction at this factory; and

(*g*) if so, how many and what they are doing?

A.—(*a*) The total capital invested on the factory was Rs. 33,187-6-8 on 31st March 1928.

(*b*) No tenders were received in response to the press communiqué announcing the sale of the factory.

(*c*) & (*d*) Do not arise.

(*e*) A note on 'Ink manufacture' prepared by the Superintendent of the Factory has been published as a departmental bulletin for the information of the public.

(*f*) & (*g*) With a view to training young men in the manufacture of inks the Government sanctioned a scheme in 1926 for training apprentices in the factory and called for applications, but in spite of the short period of training prescribed and the low fee charged, only one apprentice has so far joined the Institute: he is now undergoing training and will very shortly complete his course. The training consists of a course of lectures and practical work in the laboratory.

Mr A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Will the Government tell us what they propose to do finally?"

The hon. Mr. M R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" They propose to dispose of them for the best price obtainable."

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" Has the date been fixed?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" The date of public auction has not been fixed."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I ask if the Government have advertised the fact in the local papers?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. SETURATNAM AYYAR :—" Yes, Sir, the Director of Industries will take the necessary action"

Ink manufacture in Madras.

1644 *Q.*—Mr. K. V. R. SWAMI : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the industrial laboratory, now at Madras, has investigated into any other manufacture except fluid inks, ink powders and ink tablets and printers' ink since it was started in 1919;

(*b*) if so, what they are;

(*c*) whether the institute publishes any annual report; and

(*d*) what the annual cost of the laboratory is?

A.—(*a*) Yes, but the investigations did not reach the stage of commercial production.

(*b*) vinegar, adhesives and pottery.

(*c*) no; but its work is described in the administration report of the Industries Department.

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(*d*) The hon. Member is referred to the section of the annual administration report of the department dealing with the Institute and to the audit reports of the Ink factory.

Application for State aid to the Magnesite Co., Salem.

* 1645 Q.—Mr. K. V. R. Swami: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the application made for State aid by Messrs. Abbas Hussain and J. Khader Baksha of the Abbas Magnesite Co., Salem, referred to in question No 814, answered on 29th November 1928, has been disposed of by the Government and how?

A.—The application has not yet been disposed of.

Mr. J. A. Saldanha:—"May I enquire why there has been so much delay in disposing of this question?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar:—"There has been some correspondence with the Government of India in regard to the deputation of an expert."

Public Health

Absence of a well-equipped hospital at Pollachi.

* 1646 Q.—Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether complaints have been made to Government that the people of Pollachi are much inconvenienced by the absence of a well-equipped hospital at Pollachi;

(*b*) whether there is any lady medical officer at the hospital at Pollachi for attending upon and treating Gosha women;

(*c*) if not, whether the Government propose to rectify the defect; and

(*d*) whether there is at present any, and if so, what proposal before the Government to provide additional and adequate medical facilities for the people of Pollachi?

A.—(*a*) No such complaints have been received.

(*b*) No; but there is a separate municipal dispensary intended exclusively for women and children, in charge of a lady sub-assistant surgeon.

(*c*) There is no proposal to appoint a lady doctor in the Government hospital at Pollachi.

(*d*) A proposal to appoint a second medical officer (sub-assistant surgeon) in the hospital is under consideration.

Treatment of patients suffering from venereal diseases.

* 1647 Q.—Mr. C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) what action has been taken to provide proper facilities for the treatment of women patients suffering from venereal diseases in the Madras General Hospital; and